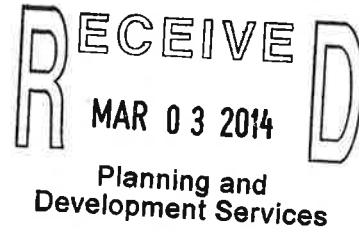


2810 Ribbonwood Road  
Boulevard, CA 91905  
Ph# 619-766-4203

February 28, 2014

In regards to: Soitec Rugged Solar Project

Robert Hingtgen  
San Diego County Planning & Development Services  
5510 Overland Avenue, Suite 310  
San Diego, CA 92123  
M.S. O-650



Dear Mr. Hingtgen and County Officials:

We are writing this letter to you to address our concerns with the Soitec Rugged Solar Project. We are homeowner's presently residing at 2810 Ribbonwood Road, Boulevard, which is across the road from this project. We are worried about how this will affect the livelihood of our family.

In 2005, we built a beautiful home for our family in the Imperial Valley. In 2012, the County of Imperial approved a 3,000 acre solar project directly across from our home. We made the heart wrenching decision to move away and found this beautiful piece of property in Boulevard and closed escrow in January of 2013. Now we find out that we are dealing with the same issues again and cannot believe that another solar project is threatening our community and our way of life.

Now, to our astonishment, we are being told that our beautiful views will now be a sea of enormous solar panels. Not to mention the many other environmental changes/impacts that will come with this project. We have the following concerns that we will further elaborate on in this letter:

- Water
- Aesthetics
- Air Quality/Soil Erosion
- Noise
- Wildlife
- Traffic
- Property value
- Safety

Water- We are concerned that the quantity and quality of our groundwater from our wells will be affected. We rely on groundwater as our sole source of water and livelihood. In the Groundwater Monitoring and Mitigation Plan ("GMMP") for the Rugged Solar Farm Project dated November 2013 issued by Dudek, it states that significant impacts to our area may result due to groundwater extraction from Wells 6a and 6b over the short term. It also states the "short-term" period may be up to a 5 year period. Five years isn't short term for us or for anyone in our community. This "short term" period of time could destroy our wells, property and livestock.

We are concerned about the impact this may have on the existing pine trees, chaparral, scrub oaks, oak trees/woodlands and any other vegetation in the area. This is a beautiful area with plant life that depends on the groundwater for survival.

We understand the County of San Diego is willing to monitor our wells. We would like to know how the County of San Diego is going to mitigate this problem, should it occur. We would expect the County of San Diego or Soitec Solar to redrill or repair our wells if they run dry or are compromised in any way.

Aesthetics - This will have a huge impact on our scenic views of the area. Some of the community residents have a beautiful view of meadows and wetlands that would be destroyed. Imagine going from beautiful views of vegetation and mountain ranges to this: 30 foot solar panels bordered by an eight foot chain link fence topped with barbed wire for as far as the eye can see.

In the Environmental Impact Report ("EIR") the community of Boulevard is grossly misrepresented by the content and pictures presented. Pictures of run down vacant homes, industrial properties, Kumeyaay Wind Farms, the Sunrise Power Link and Golden Acorn Casino are not a reflection of our beautiful community. We are real families with real homes. We have beautiful homes with beautiful landscapes and beautiful views.

Air Quality/Soil Erosion - Soil erosion will occur as a result of grading this land and removing the vegetation. We quite often have very high winds in our area. The system of leaves and roots in grass plants allow them to trap millions of tons of dust and dirt from the air annually. Up to 90% of the weight of a grass plant is in the root system. This makes grass very efficient at preventing erosion. Without this, we will have an extreme amount of blowing dust.

The "EIR" also states that residences located east and south of the Rugged site would be afforded long-term, permanent view of the solar facility and that viewer awareness of the Rugged solar farm would be high.

Noise - We are concerned with the noise levels of the inverters, machinery and trucks. As you know, living in the country has many advantages, one being the sounds of nature and not much else. Landscaping and/or vegetation, including grass, help to muffle objectionable noises. With the removal of all grass and vegetation, we are concerned the noise levels of the inverters will very be noticeable.

What are the hours of construction? Will the construction crews be working through the night or just during normal business hours?

Wildlife - How will this project impact the wildlife in the area? We have coyotes, turkeys, deer, bobcats, golden eagles, hawks, mountain lions and many other animals that make their home on or near our properties. A project of this size could have a significant impact on the existence of these animals, causing hundreds of them to be displaced from their homes.

Traffic - There will be a significant increase in traffic due to construction crews and vehicles. This will not only create more greenhouse emissions, but will do further damage to already damaged country roads. Many of our country roads in this area are already in need of major repair. Is the County of San Diego going to create a plan to repair the roads during and after the construction process is complete?

Property value - The value of our property and neighboring properties will be affected. The placement of a solar project near our homes could reduce our property value by 20 to 30%. In today's real estate market, we need to be increasing property values, not dragging them down even further.

Safety - What type of hazard will the solar panels pose to us? At such high temperatures, the solar panels can overheat and catch fire. The panels can also catch fire from faulty wiring. If too much power is pumped through inadequate wiring, the insulation can melt away and expose the wire, which can cause a fire. Is the San Diego County Fire Department equipped to handle wildfires such as these? If the panels catch fire, will toxic fumes affect us? What about the thousands of lightning strikes we get each year?

March 3, 2014

Our family is not against solar energy, but we do feel that it should not be placed near families that will be forced to live with them everyday.

We ask you to please take our concerns into consideration. Thank you in advance for taking the time to address all of these pertinent issues.

Sincerely,

The image shows two handwritten signatures in black ink. The first signature on the left is for Douglas Wayne Skains, Jr., and the second signature on the right is for Heather Skains. Both signatures are written in a cursive, flowing style.

Douglas Wayne Skains, Jr. and Heather Skains

